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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
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Reserve

Chicago Nutrition Committee  
209 W. Jackson Blvd., Room 600  
Cooperating

A UNCLE SAM'S HOME BATTALION

or

THE JUTTLE FAMILY JOINS THE PARADE

A skit by

Carrie Pimm Cook

for

Upper Grade and  
High School Students

Time 18 minutes

In Two Acts

Characters

Jasper Juttle - skilled worker in war plant

Ma Juttle - tired housewife

Josie Juttle - aged 14, underweight, capable

Jack Juttle - aged 12, sells papers, may be overweight

Jimmy Juttle - aged 8, small for age, mischievous

Miss Martin - School Nurse

Factory Doctor

Chorus Parade

Four Farmers

Four Housewives

Four War Workers including Jasper and Doctor

One Car Boy

Four Old-Fashioned Girls

Four Girls in Fancy Costumes



ACT I

TIME: Saturday morning, 1944.

SCENE: Juttie Kitchen, not too neat.

Breakfast table with one-half bottle of milk, coffee pot, plate of rolls. Chairs, large easy chair with back to door, umbrella, garbage pail, door, mirror on wall.

At table: Mrs. Juttie and two Juttie boys in quarrelsome mood.

Ma Juttie: (Lock of hair over one eye) Oh dear! This is Saturday morning again, with that big ironing to do. I'll be just jittery before noon. Boys, stop that scrapping. You're always fighting. Here's another roll, Jack. When you come home from your paper route, stop at the store and get some bologna and two bottles of pop for lunch. Your Pa will be home for lunch today.

Ma Juttie: (Aside, sighing) Poor Jasper! He looked so tired when he left this morning. Didn't eat that bread and bologna in his lunch box yesterday.

Jimmy: Naw! I don't want old bologna again. I want a hot dog.

Ma Juttie: Well, bring home a half a pound of each, then.

Jack: Got plenty of mustard, Ma?

Ma Juttie: No, that bottle we got last week is nearly gone. Better get another one. (To Jimmy) Drink your milk, Jimmy.

Jimmy: I want coffee. Jack has coffee. (Mother pours his coffee.)

Enters Josie. (Rather tired, holding hat behind her back.)

Ma Juttie: Here's your coffee, Josie. It's about cold.

Josie: Don't want any breakfast.

Ma Juttie: What is that you have there?

Josie: (Shows hat) I made it myself in my sewing class out of my old hat.

Ma Juttie: Let's see how it looks. (Josie tries on hat, a fancy little concoction with bright feathers standing up like rabbit ears. Ma views it from various angles.)

Ma Juttie: Looks right smart, I'd say, and saved your Pa a couple of dollars, too.

Jack: Gee, Sis. They will want you to join the parade. Headlines for my paper, "JOSIE JUTTIE JOINS THE PARADE". (Josie puts hat on chair beside door.)

Jimmy: What parade? Can I go Ma? Glad there's no school today. Don't like the kids in my room,

Jack: Well, why are you always fighting them?

Jimmy: They call me half-pint and Scrappy, and I hit 'em, like that.  
(Punches Jack on the arm and runs out.)

Jack: (Throws report on table) Here's my report card, Ma. (Hurries out.)

Ma Juttle: (Looks at card and sighs) Failing again in that 11:00 o'clock class in arithmetic. Last year he failed in his history class that came just before lunch, too.

Josie: (Starting to clear table) What shall I do with these rolls? This garbage pail is full. (Knock at door. Josie opens it.)

Josie: Good Morning, Miss Martin. Won't you come in? Mother, this is Miss Martin, our school nurse.

Ma Juttle: Good Morning, Miss Martin. Please sit in this comfortable chair.

Miss Martin: (Sits in chair with back to door. Says in a kindly voice.) Mrs. Juttle, I've come to see you about your children. They seem to have a harder time at school than some of the children of other war plant workers. Maybe there is something we can do to help your children.

Ma Juttle: (On the defensive) Well, Jimmy isn't as big as the other boys of his age and they pick on him and call him names, but I can't see why Jack fails in his arithmetic. Jack is a smart boy, even though I do say so myself.

Miss Martin: (Gently) Jack falls asleep in his eleven o'clock class. (Looking at Josie) Josie is underweight. What did you have for breakfast, Josie?

Josie: (Hanging head) I wasn't hungry.

Ma Juttle: (Amused) Well, Jack made up for her. He ate three rolls and how he likes sugar in his coffee.

Miss Martin: (Softly) And Jimmy?

Ma Juttle: (Lifting up milk bottle) Well, this bottle of milk lasts us two days and Jimmy gets his share of it.

Jimmy: (Appears in door. Doesn't see nurse hidden back of chair. Puts on Josie's hat and stands grinning.) Hi! Look-it, Ma. (All laugh. Jimmy puts hat down sheepishly when he sees nurse.)

Miss Martin: Jimmy, I would like you to drink a whole quart of milk every day.  
NO MORE COFFEE. Josie should have a quart, too, and a quart for Jack.



Ma Juttle: (Astonished) Why, that would be three quarts in one day.

Miss Martin: One quart more besides, so you and Mr. Juttle can have at least two glasses a piece. Just a gallon a day for your whole family. A pint of evaporated milk has the same food value as a quart of whole milk and the evaporated is usually cheaper. (Nurse leans forward.)- You see, Mrs. Juttle, milk is the best food we can use for children's growth and development of strong husky bodies. The bones, teeth, hair, skin and nervous system all use nourishment found in milk. We have no other food which can supply us with enough calcium, unless we use milk. In some countries where people don't have milk, they eat bones that contain calcium. They soften these bones with vinegar.

Ma Juttle: Then milk is a real food, not just a beverage?

Miss Martin: Yes, milk satisfies hunger. If we eat a piece of candy or a cookie, it leaves the stomach soon and we are hungry again. Just try a glass of milk instead. It "sticks to the ribs" as the lumberjacks say. Other foods that satisfy hunger and give strength to last until the next meal, besides milk, are lean meat, cheese, eggs and fish. They are the body builders. At each meal we should have a serving of either lean meat, an egg or cheese or fish, and milk besides.

Ma Juttle: (Grudgingly) Well, I guess we can afford it. Jasper is well paid at the war plant and Jackie is earning too.

Miss Martin: Well, one big economy would be to watch the garbage pail. More careful buying and the use of food could save the average American family 15 cents out of every dollar. Imagine tossing a half cup full of nickels into the garbage pail once a week. (Takes up cup to show how much makes a half cup full of nickels.)

Jack: (Bursting in, dumps packages and bundle of papers on table excitedly.) They are bringing Pa. He's been hurt. The factory doctor is with him.

(Mr. Juttle enters, pale, left hand bandaged and in sling. Supported by doctor in white jacket. Family in consternation.)

Doctor: Here put him in this easy chair, (vacated by nurse). Steady now. Got his hand smashed up a bit. (Family gathers about him.)

Mr. Juttle: (Not very convincingly) I'm all right now. Don't worry about me.

Doctor: (Looks at watch) Just 11:00 o'clock. A good many of our factory accidents happen at about 11:00 o'clock.

Miss Martin: (Glancing kindly at Jack) Just before lunch is when Jack goes to sleep in his arithmetic class.

Josie: (Glancing shyly at Mother) And Ma gets jittery over the housework.

Doctor: Well, Mrs. Juttle, I've been talking to your husband. He didn't have any nourishing food for breakfast. From supper till noon is 18 hours. That is too long to fast. His mind and body were too tired by mid-morning to watch that machine. A good breakfast would have been so stimulating that he would have felt fine until lunch time. (Glances wryly at table.) And no bologna and pop lunches either. (Turns to nurse.) You are the school nurse, aren't you?

Miss Martin: Yes, doctor. I was just talking with Mrs. Juttle about food.

Doctor: Well, see if you can work out a food plan with Mrs. Juttle. See that her husband gets plenty of yellow foods for his eyesight. His eyes get pretty tired watching that close work. Green and yellow foods that step up his vitamin A are carrots, egg yolks, greens, butter and liver, by all means LIVER at least twice a week.

Ma Juttle: (To nurse) Will you please help me?

Doctor: Yes, she will be glad to help. (To nurse.) Don't forget his lunch box. I'll have to hurry back. (Resting his fingers on Jimmy's pate.) See to it that this young fellow gets a full quart of milk a day and fix up the rest of them, will you?

Ma Juttle: Thanks, doctor.

Rest: Goodby, doctor. (Doctor leaves.)

Miss Martin: Are you comfortable, Mr. Juttle.

Mr. Juttle: Yes, go right ahead.

Miss Martin: We'll start with breakfast (as she writes, reads aloud). "Breakfast for Jasper Juttle and Family." A glass of milk, dish of cooked cereal. It can be cooked in milk, you know, with some raisins added. An egg, or, what else?

Jimmy: (Interrupting) I know; lean meat or cheese or fish.

Miss Martin: Yes. Let's see, (pencil poised in air) a baked apple, toast and butter.

Jack: Gee, Mom, doesn't that sound good? When do we start?

Josie: Can we use the new tablecloth with napkins to match?

Ma Juttle: It's soon lunch time. What would be strengthening for lunch?

Josie: Is there time to bake a hamburger loaf? Susie's mother puts some sausage, an egg and some lemon juice with the hamburger and bread crumbs.

Ma Juttle: Our grocery man will exchange these if Jack goes right away. (Pointing to bologna and pop.)



Miss Martin: In the same oven you could bake some potatoes. Just scrub them well and be sure to eat the skins. The healthy minerals are close to the skin. Then every day for at least two meals, we should eat some uncooked fruit and vegetables. Cooking destroys some of those important vitamins.

Josie: Well, in our cooking class I learned to shred cabbage for salad with fresh, sliced tomatoes.

Miss Martin: Very good. Such food should be prepared when you are almost ready to eat. Sliced or shredded foods lose some vitamins when exposed to the air.

Ma Juttle: (Vaguely) Would covering with water help?

Miss Martin: No. Some vitamins dissolve in water. When you soak foods like beans or prunes before cooking, after washing them, we should soak the food in the cooking water. For instance, there is vitamin B dissolved in the broth of meat.

Jimmy: Are those the kind of B's that make honey?

Jack: (Disgustedly) Of course not. I'll explain it to you later. Had it in my science class, B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, and all of the B's.

Jimmy: Clear up to a hundred? (Aside to Jack.) She said prunes. Hope we are not going to have prunes again.

Miss Martin: Now, with some buttered crumbs (glancing at the plate of rolls) you could put layers of sliced apples or stewed prunes (smiling at Jimmy) in a baking dish and bake with the rest of the dinner.

Josie: Saves gas too, doesn't it, Miss Martin, to cook a whole meal in the oven at one time?

Miss Martin: (Approvingly) Josie has a real housekeeper's eye.

Mr. Juttle: How soon do we eat? (Wearily) I'm plumb tuckered out.

Miss Martin: (Glancing solicitously at Mr. Juttle) I'll go now. (Turning to Mrs. Juttle) Mrs. Juttle, we are having a class for planning meals and lunch boxes. This class is for the wives of war plant workers starting right after the parade. Would you like to come?

Ma Juttle: You can count on me, Miss Martin.

Mr. Juttle: What parade?

Jack: They call it the Parade of Uncle Sam's Home Battalions. It's a real parade, Dad, of ALL THE FOLKS WHO ARE HELPING TO WIN THE WAR AT HOME.

Ma Juttle: (Emphatically) Well, we are going to help win the war by eating for good health. The Juttles are going to join that parade!

Jimmy: (Grabs umbrella, puts over shoulder and marches.)  
Hup! two, three, four. HUP! two, three, four.

## CURTAIN

## ACT II

Time: Same afternoon. In far distance, faint sound of snappy martial music, grows closer and louder, then real loud. Tune: "Farmer in the Dell."

Curtain rises. In background and above stage level, between flags, stands Uncle Sam, aloof with arms folded, watching the parade.

Parade should be in brisk time. Number of characters taking part in parade may be varied.

Four boys - abreast in farmers' clothes, garden tools over shoulder. At 'OH, WHEW' snaps sweat from brows. March to one side of stage and sing.

1. The farmer grows the food,  
The farmer grows the food,  
Oh, Whew! my garden too!  
The farmer grows the food.

(Halts at one side of stage,)

Four girls - housekeepers with grass skirts or aprons made of newspapers, holding out empty cans labeled FAT, swaying in rhythmical fashion, marches to other side of stage. At 'YOU HOO' they look at farmers.

2. We save paper and fat,  
We save paper and fat  
You Hoo! the kitchen too,  
We save paper and fat.

Four war plant workers, including doctor and Jasper Juttle in center. Doctor in white coat and Jasper still bandaged, in factory clothes. The war plant workers on each side are also dressed in work clothes. They march and sing. At word 'TURN' they give vigorous right arm turning motion.

3. The factory wheels must turn,  
The factory wheels must turn,  
We're on the job both night and day.  
The factory wheels must turn.

Four girls abreast, dressed in old-fashioned clothes, march and sing happily.  
At words 'MY PAL' salutes individuals in audience.

4. We make our old clothes do,  
    We make our old clothes do,  
Oh, now, My Pal, why cannot you  
    Just make your old clothes do?

One boy limps in alone, cloddy shoes, carries some part of old car, half  
sings in sad nasal tones.

5. I save my gas and tires,  
    I save my gas and tires,  
I sold my car and now I walk  
    To save my gas and tires.

Four girls in fetching costumes, may be uniforms, drum majorettes or evening  
dresses, carrying war bonds; sing with abandon. At words 'DO YOU' hold out  
bonds.

6. We buy war stamps and bonds,  
    We buy war stamps and bonds,  
To help our country fight the war,  
    Do you buy stamps and bonds?  
        (And bonds in last line may be sung an octave higher)

Here is the place for the coach to insert her paragraph to call attention to her com-  
munity project or the achievement of some individual.

Quickly to the middle of the stage hasten Mrs. Juttle, erect and determined; Miss Martin, the school nurse, all out of breath; Jack with papers under his arm; Josie in her new hat; Jimmy with bottle of milk nearly empty, pauses, takes drink of milk, wipes mouth on back of hand, sets bottle down and steps lively into place.

CHORUS, all sing

Tune: AMERICA

Our Country needs us all  
May we now hear her call  
To win this war.  
Farm, factory, office say  
Our home front pledge today  
Is work, fight, win and pray  
Till Victory's ours.

One voice

Our Father's God to Thee,  
Author of Liberty,  
To Thee we sing.

All Sing

Long may our Land be bright,  
With freedom's Holy Light,  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God, Our King.

CURTAIN